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Rockville Budget Given To Council

Tax Rate Would Increase 13c If Approved By City Officials

A budget of $2,740,000 financed by a city tax increase of 13 cents per $100 assessed valuation, or an average increase of $10.37 for homeowners, was submitted this week to Rockville's mayor and city council.

The new rate, if adopted, would represent the first increase in Rockville taxes in the last 13 years, according to City Manager Walter A. Scheiber. A public hearing on the proposed budget has been set for June 13.

Scheiber justified the substantial tax hike, saying it was necessary "primarily because of an expanded capital construction program now under way in the city."

New construction includes the city's civic center auditorium, extensive replacement of open storm drains with a closed sewer system, construction of the vitally-needed Watts Branch sewer, purchase of park and recreation sites, and other capital projects, Scheiber told city heads.

The proposed tax hike would enable the city to pay 54 per cent of its operating expendi-

Rockville budget framers estimate that the city will need $11,730 in fiscal 1960-61 to pay the freight for salaries of the mayor, four councilmen, a clerk-treasurer and a stenographer for the many public hearings held each year. The estimated actual cost this fiscal year, which draws to a close July 1, was $10,512.

Rockville Budgetary Highlights

Some of the smaller, perhaps less important items contained in Rockville's 1960-61 record $2.7 million budget nevertheless merit attention. For instance:

- City officials have urged enactment of an ordinance similar to its dog law to cover cats, "which are becoming an increasing nuisance throughout the city." The budget contains outlays of $180 for four cat cages and $40 for one cat pole.
- The trend toward small cars has reached Rockville, apparently, since the budget recommends purchase of two "compacts" to replace old pick-up trucks used by the street inspection crews.
- The needs of a growing city population, budget authors observed, include appointment of one more policeman, bringing the force to four. The new man would start at $4082 a year. One of Sgt. Walter Atwell's two men would be elevated to the rank of corporal.
- Since half of Rockville's 25,000 persons are under the age of consent, the city needs four more teams in the Boys Softball League and creation of

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